

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

USSR

DATE DISTR. 21 June 1948

SUBJECT

Construction Plans:  
Molotovsk and Sumgait

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ACQUIRED

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NO. OF ENCLS.  
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**Comment:** The following report is being distributed for the sake of possible interest in Paragraph 1 in connection with an article which appeared in the Washington Post on 13 June 1948. According to the Post article, reports from Stockholm claim that the Russians are "moving military equipment from the former German naval base at Wilhelmshaven to Murmansk and turning Murmansk Harbor into probably Europe's biggest naval base.")

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1. First priority is being given to the development of the city of Molotovsk (64°35'N, 39°57'E). Construction was started in 1947. The population at present is 40,000 but is to be increased to 350,000 by 1950. Molotovsk is to be a substitute for Murmansk as a naval base; so far, it has had dock space for 30 merchant ships.
2. The same priority has been given to the city of Sumgait, near Baku. At present, this city has only 30,000 inhabitants, but the construction plan provides for 300,000. This is a center for the manufacture of pipes for oil pipelines. The construction of an 80-switch marshaling yard is planned.

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